



DEPARTMENT OF
TOXIC SUBSTANCES
CONTROL

*The mission of the
Department of Toxic
Substances Control is
to provide the
highest level of safety,
and to protect public
health and the
environment from
toxic harm.*



State of California



Cal/EPA

DTSC Approves the Investigation Report for the Former Special Devices Site in Newhall

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has sent you this fact sheet to provide you with information about the investigation of the Former Special Devices, Incorporated (SDI) Site (the Site). The Site is located within the Angeles National Forest at 16830 West Placerita Canyon Road, approximately one mile west of Sand Canyon Road, in Newhall, California. The approximately 157-acre site is owned by Placerita Land and Farming Company. Currently, an animal rescue facility and undeveloped private and government-owned land border the Site. ([Please see the map on page 4.](#))

DTSC has been overseeing the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation (RFI) for the Site and has approved the Summary RFI Report (Summary RFI). The Summary RFI summarizes all soil, soil-gas, and groundwater investigation results. You may review the Summary RFI at the Newhall Public Library at 22704 West Ninth Street in Newhall, or at the DTSC web site, www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/, by typing in the city as “Newhall” and then clicking on “Get Report,” then on “Report” (next to “Map”), then on “Community Involvement,” after that, check on one of the five (5) parts. You may read, review, or download and print the report.

History

Operations began at the Site in the late 1950s and ceased in mid-1999. Some of the items manufactured included hardware used in aerospace applications, and most notably, in the 1990s, ignition devices for use in automobile air bags. The operating facility included a number of buildings operated by SDI, Hughes Aircraft, and Inflation Systems International. Currently, all of the buildings have been removed. Because the topography of the Site and surrounding area consists of rugged natural terrain, the buildings were grouped in relatively small operating areas, referred to as “Levels” (due to differing elevations), surrounded by undeveloped natural open areas. SDI also had a Special Use Permit from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) for use of some adjacent land for materials storage. (This approximate area is identified as “Angeles National Forest” on the map on [page 4.](#)) In the Summary RFI, this area is referred to as the USFS Magazine Area.

Investigation Overview

Because the historical operations were conducted only at the widely-spaced Levels and the USFS Magazine Area, the RFI was conducted in phases focusing on each Level. Each phase involved the collection and analysis of soil, soil gas, and/or groundwater samples, in accordance with a Work Plan approved by DTSC. A report was prepared for each phase. After DTSC reviewed the individual reports for each phase and concluded that the investigation was complete, the Summary RFI was prepared to summarize the results of the individual reports within a single, stand-alone reference and decision-making document. The results of the RFI are summarized starting on [page two](#).



Soil Sample Results

The soil investigation results do not show contaminant levels that would trigger state action in any of the areas of the Site or at the USFS Magazine Area.

Soil-Gas Sample Results

The results of the soil-gas investigation show contaminants of concern in a small area on the western portion of Level 2 and in an area on the northern portion of Level 7. At Level 2, the primary contaminant of concern is benzene, and at Level 7, the primary contaminants of concern are volatile organic compounds. In both cases, no specific source was identified, and it is expected that the contaminants were the result of spills to the surface during historical operations. In both cases, the results of an Assessment of Human Health Risk show that risks to persons outdoors, such as in a park or natural open-space setting, are acceptable. However, the human health risks to persons indoors, such as a commercial or residential setting (e.g., if structures were to be built in the impacted areas), could be unacceptable unless proper construction techniques (e.g., adequate ventilation) were used. Currently, the impacted soil gas does not present a risk to human health or the environment.

Groundwater Sample Results

The results of the groundwater investigation show contaminants of concern in an area in the middle of Level 2 and in an area on the northern portion of Level 7. At both areas, the primary contaminants of concern are volatile organic compounds. In both cases, no specific source was identified, and it is expected that the contaminants were the result of spills to the surface during historical operations. As described in the hydrogeological section of the Summary RFI, the groundwater at the Site has not been used in the past and is not currently being used. Because the amount of groundwater present is limited, and depends on seasonal rainfall, future groundwater use at the Site is unlikely. Currently, the impacted groundwater does not present a risk to human health or the environment on or off-site.

Conclusions

The investigation results identify low levels of contamination that are restricted to two areas of the Site.

What happens next?

A draft Corrective Measures Study, with the proposed remedy for the Site, will be sent to DTSC. After DTSC evaluates the proposed remedy, DTSC will submit it for public review and comment. DTSC will place a public notice in the *Santa Clarita Valley Signal* announcing the public comment period and will send a Fact Sheet to the mailing list describing the proposed remedy. DTSC will give the public 45 days to review and comment on the proposed remedy.

Who to contact for more information

If you have questions, please contact:

Nathan Schumacher
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
Phone toll free at (866) 495-5651; please select option # 1, and then option # 5 or call the direct line:
(916) 255-3650
E-Mail: NSchumac@dtsc.ca.gov

Ken Payne
DTSC Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
Phone (916) 255-6444
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For media inquiries, please contact:

Jeanne Garcia
DTSC Public Information Officer
9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311-6505
Phone (818) 717-6573
E-mail: jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

NOTICE TO THE HEARING IMPAIRED

You may obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Please ask them to contact Mr. Nathan Schumacher at (916) 255-3650, regarding the Former SDI Site investigation.

Mailing List Coupon

If your address is on the envelope, then you are on the mailing list for the Site. If not, you can be added to the mailing list. Please fill out this coupon, and send it to Nathan Schumacher, DTSC, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826.

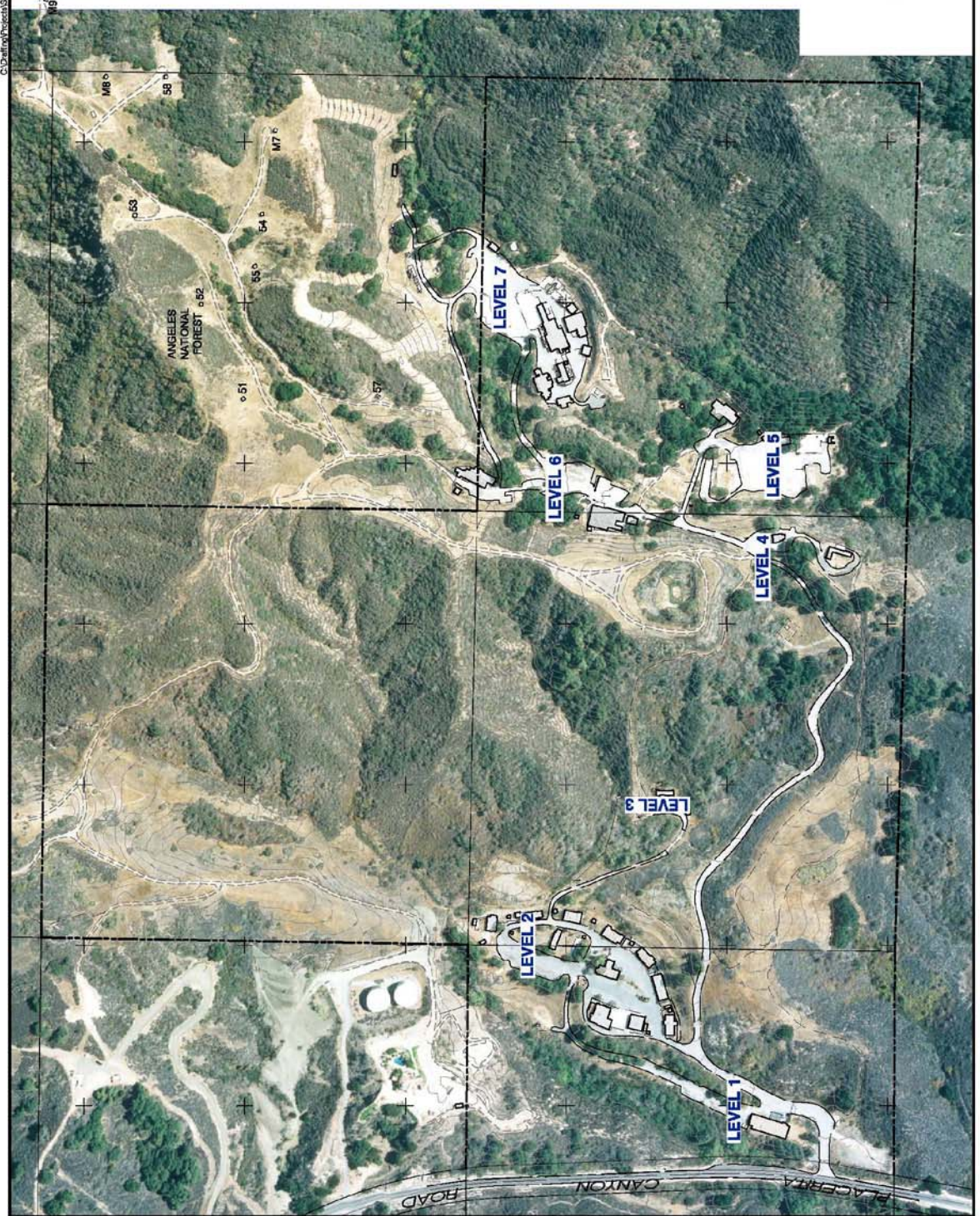
Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

DTSC mailing lists are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records and, if requested, may be subject to release.

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EXPLANATION

- 54 MAGAZINE
- PROPERTY LINE

REFERENCE:
CSC AERIAL MAPPING SERVICE, AUGUST 2002

NOTE:
IN OCTOBER 2007, ALL BUILDINGS AND MAGAZINES
HAVE BEEN REMOVED.



SITE PLAN

FORMER SPECIAL DEVICES, INCORPORATED SITE
NEWHALL, CALIFORNIA

